

City of Asheville Greenway Committee

Meeting Minutes - June 2nd 2016

Committee members: David Nutter, Mary Weber, John Ridout, Amy Vanden Heuvel, Jim Grode, Rich Lee, Stephanie Gillis (Arrived 3:40pm after Agenda and Minute Approval)

Staff: Lucy Crown

3:33 - Call to Order

- No Public Comment
- June Agenda – Mary adds outreach with FOCB - Dave moves, Jim Seconds, passes 6-0
- April Minutes: Jim Moves, Dave seconds, passed 6-0

New Business

- Jim's last meeting, presented with a plaque. Thank you Jim!
- **Multi-year funding:** David attended webinar about the FastAct authorization act. New emphasis for improving networks. New interest in connecting greenways and multimodal networks. DOT sets aside ^{DR1} 80 million for network improvement. 1- New policy by the TDA and development fund for a major tourism multi-year pathway project. TDA emphasis on networks as well. These are multi-year policy. Indicating approval for a multi-year project of about 3-4 years. Accepts proposals year-round. Key items:
 - Moving to designate Biltmore, Lexington, and connect to a south slope visitor center.
 - River to Ridge – Identifies several funding sources. City staff is working on the applications. Mary/Lucy - City Transportation has hired a new city grant writer. Not available for greenways due to transit needs. Lucy: Complete Streets
- **Downtown Greenway Connectors:** Reed Creek ends at Starnes. Dave walked to/on Broadway/Lexington from Flint/Chestnut. Dave ID multimodal Cox, Lexington Biltmore to connect with R2R greenways. Dave continued to TownBranch Creek (near Cox). Can connect to white fawn / Beaucatcher greenways. Interesting relationship to develop affordable housing with multimodal/greenway near Depot Street from TB greenway to Clingman. Needs on street connection to connect Clingman to Patton/College to the eastern connection to Beaucatcher/Helens Bridge. View of Mountains near Clingman are excellent. Dave suggest Lexington as an urban Greenway connect. Connect natural with Asheville urban character can be combined in a network around the CBD. Can evolve with multimodal efforts. Mary: need to focus on the connectors as greenway segments are built.
- Connector Discussion:
 - Rich approves the idea to see the multimodal path on Patton, Lexington, and Broadway. Rich – want to make sure it is a phase 2 of the TDA as an endorsement but not focus as it as a “greenway” focus.
 - Dave – Focus on pleasant routes that connect greenway. Sidewalk improvements. Need a big picture effort for the connectors.
 - Rich – we need a lot of paths on “green” ground that “greenways” are not trying to acquire all pedestrian projects. We need to sidewalk-urban path that is the equivalent to greenways that the priority of the greenway network.

- Rich: Do with revise the greenway master plan?
- Lucy: We have more immediate wayfinding need and if the complete streets can use the same wayfinding. Separate process of wayfinding.
- Mary: How to move forward: think about for a month. Dave will develop and consider to present to Multimodal Committee.
- Jim – Are Greenway connectors and complete streets the SAME? Is wayfinding the only difference? John – You might have differences based on users
- Rich, are we taking away where we have miles of greenways along Swannanoa. Jim: figuring out the wayfinding. What is the appropriate wayfinding?
- Mary - Friends of Connect Buncombe is setting up tables at farmer markets. East Asheville Tailgate 6/3. Also walk July 16th at 10am Beaucatcher – John can attend.

Staff Update

- Lucy – Massive crunch time! Must have SPNE for FWHA. Goal to have them ready next week (6/6) to have the money release and begin work. Utility work will happen. Will be messy construction. In addition, the city is submitting on grant applications for the downtown projects. Will get a redesign for the Duke property. Long retaining wall (1 million) will be removed as well as the northern alignment.
- Beaucatcher- waiting for the 100% designs. Construction bid release in November.

Unfinished Business

- **Recap of the fieldtrip.** We found Reeds Creek terminate at Magnolia. Street. We have easements to chestnut to about Elizabeth Street on the Southside. Looked for alternative on Elizabeth place and Starnes Have the greenway to head towards Starnes rather than Cherry. Goal is to get to Montford near the Chamber building.
- **Greenway candidates:** One applicant. Sunny Carr. No Vote as applications are due June 10. No immediate need to fill but we could add 2-3 individuals.
- MMTc is looking for a greenway applicant.
- **Retreat Goals** – Mary: A lot of goals and how to pare things down. Formalized public engagement – post Beaucatcher. See document. Dave suggest that we find a way to fit greenway needs/connectors for multimodal streets for Dec 2016. Policy and planning items, do we need to set-up subcommittees. Not sure about the subcommittees as there are a lot of goals. Rich – need to avoid the research and PowerPoint items. Everything on the first page is doable. Outreach and marketing –FOCB is a huge partner. Put on hold for FOCB meeting.
 - Partnership and capacity meeting. Invite Dana for Parks Foundation talk. Seek new partners and new list for outreach. Down the line.
 - Outreach to council. Meet with individual members and it worked Beaucatcher. As needed.
 - Town Branch/Clingman review of the project should be the model. Lucy is providing excellent staff support. Dave has written up a model citizen engagement process based on what we learned from the Beaucatcher Greenway process which he will send out.

Committee Updates (Truncated due to lack of time)

- Hominy Creek –pot luck.

- Did Jim say something about the AIM plan being approved by City Council?

Adjourned.